



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Scriptural Message

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life
Romans 6:22

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery
Galatians 5:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death
Romans 8:1-2

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren

September
2026

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action

Greetings from Pastor Chris

"Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong." — Psalm 37:1 (NIV)

September often feels like a fresh start. Summer is winding down, school is back in session, vacations are over, and many of us are settling back into our regular routines. It's a good time to pause and refocus our hearts on what truly matters.

David begins Psalm 37 with a simple command: **"Do not fret."** That's easier said than done, isn't it? Everywhere we look, there seems to be another reason to worry or become discouraged. We see injustice, division, and people making choices that are far from God's will. It's easy to ask, "Lord, what is happening?"

David reminds us that while we cannot control what is happening around us, we can choose how we respond. Instead of worrying, we are called to trust the Lord. Instead of becoming discouraged, we are called to keep doing what is right. Instead of comparing ourselves to others, we are called to keep our eyes on Jesus.

The rest of Psalm 37 gives us a wonderful pattern to follow: **Trust in the Lord. Delight yourself in Him. Commit your way to Him. Be still before Him.** What a great reminder for all of us! God is still on His throne. He is still working, even when we cannot see it. He has not forgotten His people, and He never will.

As followers of Christ, we have the opportunity to live differently than the world around us. While others may be filled with fear, we can live with faith. While others are angry, we can respond with grace. While others lose hope, we can point people to the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

This month, I encourage you to spend a few minutes reading Psalm 37. Let God's Word quiet your heart and strengthen your faith. When you find yourself becoming anxious or frustrated, remember David's words: **"Do not fret."** Instead, take your concerns to the Lord in prayer and trust Him with what you cannot control.

My prayer for each of us this September is that we would worry less, trust more, and shine brightly for Christ in our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and our community.

May the Lord bless you and your family as together we continue to grow in His grace.

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for July 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Sunday School – 20
Worship Service – 92
Online Views – 35

Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: **Faye Brubaker, Dixie Gasper, Lois Hassinger, Ken Gross, Doris Lausch, Lois Sheetz, LaMar and Joanne Fahnestock, Shirley Brandt, and Anna Mae Kupp.**

MCoB email list - join by sending your name and email address to info@myerstowncob.org

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for September is True Life Ministries.

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always processed ***the first Sunday of the month***. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. How many cards do you think you can use in a month? You don't have to buy a card to give away, you can use them yourself. You can buy your groceries or gas for your vehicles.

Sharing Cupboard

For the month of September we are collecting be noodles, macaroni, any kind of pasta, and spaghetti sauce.

Bible Study

We will plan on starting up on Sept. 8th after taking off for the summer.

Choirs to Resume

Senior Choir will resume Wednesday, September 9th at 7:30 p.m.

Bell Choir will resume Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:15 p.m.

Praise Team will resume Monday, Sept. 14th at 6:00 pm

Holiday Bazaar

It's that time of year when you are probably cleaning out good but unused or unwanted items. The annual bazaar is November 21st, but we are already accepting donations for the "white elephant" tables. The items can be stored in the Sharing Cupboard area.

Love Feast and Communion

Fall Love Feast and Communion will be held Sunday, October 4th following the worship service. If anyone would be willing to babysit during the Communion service, it would be greatly appreciated. Please see any of the deacons with questions.

Disaster Relief Auction

September 25th and 26th is the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction at the Lebanon Expo Grounds.

Pumpkin Roll

Women's Fellowship will be starting the baking of pumpkin rolls on September 21st. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Janet Dubble or Dottie Nagle. Look for the pumpkin roll order forms in your mailbox.

Communion Help

The Deacon Board is asking for volunteers to help prepare for Love Feast/Communion on Saturday, October 3rd at 8:00 am. It involves making the soup, communion bread and setting up tables. The help will be very much appreciated. Contact any deacon. Thank you!

September Wedding Anniversaries

4 th	Jason & Carey Krall
9 th	Jay & Brenda Lentz
17 th	LaMar & Joanne Fahnestock
	Dale & JoAnn Houtz
19 th	Bob & Kathryn Gible
21 st	George & Dottie Nagle

Bible Verse

Do you have a favorite Bible verse or verses? Pastor Chris is collecting favorite verses to share with the church family. Forms for submitting your verses are available in the Gathering Place. Completed forms may be placed in the offering plates at the rear of the sanctuary. You may also use this link to submit your verse(s)
<https://forms.gle/PxFnufd4BhBLHe9k>

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: August 18, 2026

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Chairperson: David Dubble

Present were: Secretary – Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Jay Lentz

Secretary's Report of June 16, 2026

Approved as presented by aye vote

Treasurer's Report of June 30 and July 31, 2026

Both of these were approved as presented by aye vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Earl Liskey, David Dubble

No meeting at this time.
Earl has worship leaders in place.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson – Janet Dubble,
Tammy Landis, Kim Horn

Kim opened with prayer.

A total of 44 tickets were sold for the Reading Fightin' Phils baseball game on Friday, August 14, 2026.

This Commission will plan a Fellowship Meal for August 30 Rally Day. Hot dogs, meatball sandwiches, and drinks will be provided. The congregation will be asked to provide sides, salads, and desserts. A signup sheet is in the Gathering Place. Kim Wenger will prepare the meatballs and hot dogs. Tables will be set up at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 29.

Collection items for September for The Sharing Cupboard will be noodles, macaroni, any kind of pasta, and spaghetti sauce.

The total amount collected to date for the Mission of the Month (through July) is \$7252.94

The following ministries will be our Missions of the Month for the remainder of 2026:

- August: Samaritan's Purse Venezuelan Earthquake Relief Fund
- Sept: True Life Ministries - Presentation Sept. 13; Collection Sept. 20
- Oct: Operation Christmas Child
- Nov: Sharing Cupboard
- Dec: Sock Collection for ELCO families

A suggestion was made to consider Camp Swatara as a Mission of the Month for 2027

The Londonderry Village Holiday Bazaar will be held on October 24, 2026. Women's Fellowship will donate 20 half pumpkin rolls. Orders for The annual Holiday Nut Sale will take place through October 18. An order form will be available in the Gathering Place. Nut orders will be delivered to the church for the November 15 service.

The revised Welcome Packet is ready to print.

The 2026 Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2026. Kevin and Pastor Chris will coordinate the float again this year.

Decorating the church for the holiday will be on Saturday, November 28 at 9:00 AM.

We discussed possible timeline options for a half day Women's Retreat which will be open to the public and led by Joyce Strong.

Women's Fellowship Activities

Pumpkin Roll Sale - Pumpkin Roll baking will begin on Sept. 21 and run through October 12 (4 weeks); October 19 will be an additional baking day, if needed. The order deadline will be October 4. Order forms will be placed in mailboxes. The cost will remain at \$15.00 each.

The Holiday Bazaar will be on November 21, 2026. Volunteers will be needed.

Women's Fellowship will fund an MCoB Tee Shirt Fundraiser for Youth. Orders will be taken from Aug. 30 - September 13. Women's Fellowship will cover cost of shirts for Youth and Jr. Youth. The shirts will be navy blue with the MCoB logo on the front left chest and the back of the shirt in white. The cost per shirt is \$15.00 and are available in adult sized S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL.

The next Women's Fellowship meeting is November 5th at 6:30 pm in the church parlor for planning pumpkin roll baking, Holiday Bazaar, Women's breakfast, T-shirts, etc. All women of the church are invited to attend and participate.

Christian Education Commission: - Chairperson - Brenda Lentz,
Christine Blackwell

The youth retreat was talked about. Preparations are coming along. We should have a good turnout.

Everything is set for Rally Day.

The youth will be manning a table at Rally Day to take orders for church t-shirts.

The new adult Sunday School class will be starting in October.

The new Junior Choir director is Cat Dundore.

Trustee and Property Commission: - Chairperson - George Nagle
Mark Landis, Jr., Bill Kline, Dale Houtz

The school painted the upstairs rooms, put up new blinds and cleaned the carpet.

Shawn Philips from Triangle got a crane and removed air and heat unit at mail boxes and put a seal on the curb between unit.

We are getting new heat and air vents in gym ceiling. The old ones are missing pieces and don't look very nice. New ones will be installed Friday.

We replaced some broken tile in the ceiling in the gym.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: - Chairperson - Bob Noll
Jav Lentz

Checks issued for Mission of Month

June – Far Reach Ministries \$1,204.00

July – Vine Ministries \$1,354.00

In the next few weeks, we will be distributing worksheets for proposed budget for 2027. The budget will need to be approved at the October meeting.

We would like to thank everyone for their faithful giving.

Pastor's Report

Since our last meeting, things have stayed busy, but I'm thankful for the many opportunities God has given me to serve our church and our community.

- Worship Services: I have continued praying, studying, and planning our weekly worship services. We have continued working our way through the Gospel of Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount.
- Pastor Fellowship: I met monthly with a group of Brethren pastors for fellowship, encouragement, and conversation. I have also continued meeting monthly with my pastor mentor.
- Newsletter: I prepared the monthly newsletter article and verse of the month.
- Visitation: I called and visited several people from our congregation and community, including people who were in the hospital and those at home.
- Annual Conference: I attended Annual Conference and appreciated the opportunity to connect with other Brethren and be part of the wider church.
- Bible School: I helped with Vacation Bible School and enjoyed being involved with the children and the many people who helped make it possible.
- Funerals: I conducted two funeral services during this time.
- Vacation: I made arrangements for guest speakers to fill the pulpit while I was away on vacation.

I also want to say thank you to everyone who has helped while I have been away on vacation. I appreciate those who have stepped up and helped with the services and other things that needed to be done. It means a lot to know that our church continues to work together and support one another.

I miss everyone and look forward to being back with you. I'm thankful for our church family and for all the ways people continue to serve. My prayer is that God will continue to use us, guide us, and direct us as we seek to serve Him and reach others for Christ.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

There will be a Men's breakfast on October 10. Scott Lengel will lead a presentation on his ducks and birds.

The Fall Music Program will be October 11.

Interests & Concerns

None

Adjournment

At 8:00 pm with prayer by Mark Landis, Jr.

Verse of the Month - September

"Do not fret because of those
who are evil or be envious of
those who do wrong."

Psalm 37:1



Bible Reading Plan

The best way to know God is to become acquainted with the full counsel of His written Word. This reading plan will guide you through all 66 books of the Bible in the coming year. ☺

SEPTEMBER

1 Ezekiel 25 – 27	11 Daniel 4 – 5	21 Jonah 1 – 4
2 Ezekiel 28 – 30	12 Daniel 6 – 8	22 Micah 1 – 4
3 Ezekiel 31 – 32	13 Daniel 9 – 12	23 Micah 5 – 7
4 Ezekiel 33 – 35	14 Hosea 1 – 4	24 Nahum 1 – 3
5 Ezekiel 36 – 38	15 Hosea 5 – 9	25 Habakkuk 1 – 3
6 Ezekiel 39 – 40	16 Hosea 10 – 14	26 Zephaniah 1 – 3
7 Ezekiel 41 – 43	17 Joel 1 – 3	27 Haggai 1 – 2
8 Ezekiel 44 – 46	18 Amos 1 – 4	28 Zechariah 1 – 5
9 Ezekiel 47 – 48	19 Amos 5 – 9	29 Zechariah 6 – 10
10 Daniel 1 – 3	20 Obadiah 1	30 Zechariah 11 – 14

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Music Committee Mtg. 7:00 pm	2 Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm	3	4	5
6 Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	7 LABOR DAY	8 Bible Study 10:00 am	9 Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	10 Sharing Cupboard 10-1	11 Sharing Cupboard 3-6	12
13 Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	14 Praise Team 6:00 pm	15 Bible Study 10:00 am Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Commission Mtg 7:00 pm Board Mtg 7:30 pm	16 Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm	17	18	19
20 Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	21 Pumpkin Roll Baking 8:00 am Pumpkin Roll Filling 4:30 pm Praise Team 6:00 pm	22 Bible Study 10:00 am	23 Ladies Aide 9:00 am Londonderry Village Service 7:00 pm	24 Sharing Cupboard 10-1 Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	25 Sharing Cupboard 3-6 Disaster Relief Auction	26 Disaster Relief Auction
27 Prayer Group 8:30 am Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	28 Pumpkin Roll Baking 8:00 am Pumpkin Roll Filling 4:30 pm Praise Team 6:00 pm	29 Bible Study 10:00 am	30 Ladies Aide 9:00 am Bell Choir 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm			

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 Dean Wagner	5
6 Janet Dubble Nancy Liskey	7	8	9 Walter Sattazahn	10 William Wenrich Isabella Reppert	11	12
13	14 Ella Heisey Alicia Yoh	15	16	17	18	19
20 Jane Spangler	21	22	23 Aaron Krall Evan Krall	24	25 Rachel McClure	26
27 Edna Yoh	28	29 Chelsea Reppert	30 Susan Dundore			

Second L.E.A.D. Conference held at Ephrata

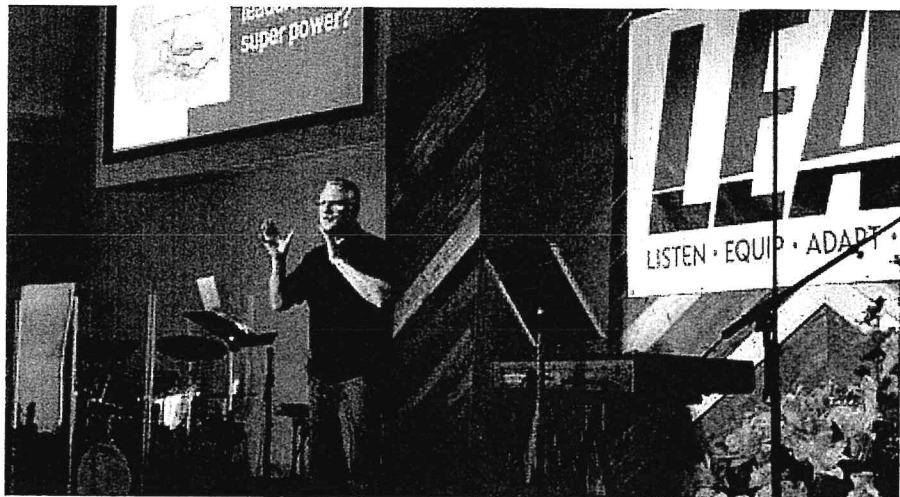
Hebrews 11:8 was the theme of the second Church of the Brethren

L.E.A.D. Conference held at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren on May 1-3, organized by the denomination's Discipleship and Leadership Formation staff. Attendance included 112 people in person and 8 online.

Michaela Alphonse, pastor of Miami (Fla.) First Church of the Brethren, opened the gathering with a challenging sermon reflecting on the need for church leaders to obey God, no matter the cost.

A wide variety of workshops were held in three languages—English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole—with leadership from more than 20 presenters from across the Church of the Brethren.

Three keynote messages by Tod Bolsinger expounded on the concept of following God's Spirit into unknown places and situations. An author, professor, and former pastor, Bolsinger drew



Tod Bolsinger, the keynote speaker for the 2026 L.E.A.D. Conference.

on illustrations from scripture and from history to describe how the church in North America in 2026 finds itself in uncharted territory.

"What got us here won't get us there," was his common refrain, meaning that the landscape of the culture has

shifted and Christianity is not the dominant influence it once was. Bolsinger noted that relying on old methods and patterns that served the church well in the past may not be as effective in sharing the unchanging Gospel within our rapidly changing world.

Global Church of the Brethren Communion meets in Spain

After many meetings on Zoom with the delegates and alternates, the Global Church of the Brethren Communion met in person on Spain's northern coast in April. The last in-person meeting of the communion was in 2022 in the Dominican Republic. A number of representatives did not get visas to enter Spain, so a Zoom connection was provided for those who could join online.

The Gijón congregation of Iglesia Una Luz En Las Naciones, where pastor Santos Terrero started his ministry 20

years ago, hosted the meeting. He serves as president of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion.

Each day began with a time of devotions and prayer led by various countries. "State of the church in action" reports were shared and topical sessions were held around a theme from Acts 4: "The authority of the church in the face of opposition."

To ground the assembly in shared history and theological heritage, secretary Alexandre Gonçalves traced the development of the communion by naming the "five pillars" of its global vision:

- Affirming autonomy
- Embracing indigenous churches
- Mutual sharing of resources
- Practicing servant leadership
- Sharing core Brethren values while respecting cultural differences

The communion voted unanimously to accept the Church of the Brethren in Burundi into the global fellowship. The group also heard updates on contacts with house churches in Cuba and interest from Iglesia de Los Hermanos Comunidad de Fe of the Dominican Republic.



The Global Church of the Brethren Communion representatives from around the world spent an afternoon helping out with the Gijón congregation's food bank ministry.

\$500,000 grant supports Brethren Disaster Ministries

The Church of the Brethren has been awarded a half-million dollar grant to support Brethren Disaster Ministries. The grant was received from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its initiative, "Hope After the Storm: Capacity Building for Faith-Based Disaster Relief Organizations." It will support "a three-year program expansion and improvements to US-based programs," said Roy Winter, executive director of Service Ministries.

The grant will support Brethren Disaster Ministries goals of strengthening US programs and increasing volunteer participation. To expand, the program needs more volunteers to support children after disasters, rebuild homes, and provide onsite leadership, and needs to update systems, communications, and tools to increase volunteer recruitment and participation. The funds also help purchase two new vans.

Winter emphasized that continued financial support of Brethren Disaster Ministries programs will be important during the three-year grant cycle, as the grant does not fund normal operations.

Personnel

Madalyn Metzger and **Rhonda Pittman Gingrich** have been named to new interim leadership positions on the denominational staff following the retirement announcement of Wendy McFadden, longterm publisher of Brethren Press and executive director of Communications.

Madalyn Metzger on June 15 began as part-time interim executive director of Engagement and Communications, moving to fulltime July 13. She will lead Communications and Mission Advancement. She was moderator of the 2024 Annual Confer-

ence and has had a lifelong involvement with the Church of the Brethren. Most recently she has been chief marketing officer at Everence. She will work remotely from northern Indiana and be onsite regularly at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill.

Rhonda Pittman Gingrich begins in August as part-time interim leader of Brethren Press, in addition to her work as director of Annual Conference. She will provide leadership in a time of discernment of how Brethren Press may best be supported moving forward. Her responsibilities for Annual Conference will be shared by Debbie

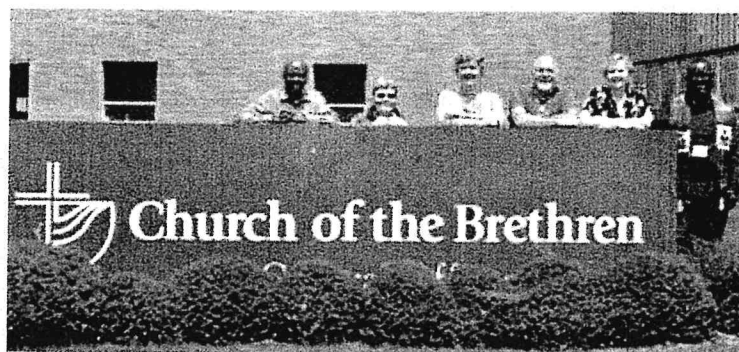
Noffsinger, Conference assistant, who has transitioned from part-time to full-time.

Michelle Martinez began April 27 as manager of Accounting and assistant treasurer at the Church of the Brethren General Offices. She is a graduate of the University of Phoenix with a bachelor of science in accounting and a master's in business administration. Previously, she worked at the Village of Niles, Ill., as senior accountant manager.

Adam Lane began May 27 as program assistant for Children's Disaster Services at the Brethren Service Center in

New Windsor, Md. He is a graduate of Huntington University with a bachelor's in Worship Leadership and of Bethany Seminary with a master of arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation. He and his family are members at Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren in Hagerstown, Md.

Gaston Pierre-Louis has joined the Part Time Pastor; Full Time Church program of the Ministry Office as a circuit rider. He will fill in after Founa A. Badet, director of Intercultural Ministries, steps down as a circuit rider effective July 31.



Cheryl Brethren.org/News

The planning team for National Older Adult Conference 2027

(from left): Dennis Webb of Illinois and Wisconsin District, intercultural coordinator; Heidi Berkenbosch of Northern Plains District, workshop coordinator; Kim McDowell of Mid-Atlantic District, worship co-coordinator; Glenn Bollinger of Shenandoah District, hospitality coordinator; Christy Waltersdorff of Illinois and Wisconsin District, NOAC coordinator; and Illexene Alphonse of Atlantic Southeast District (wearing a special stole for Haitian Flag Day), worship co-coordinator.

Legal and Mutual Aid Fund reaches goal of \$250,000

The Deportation Defense Response team has announced that its Legal and Mutual Aid Fund achieved a goal of raising \$250,000 by Easter weekend. The fund aids church members affected by immigration enforcement. As of April, more than 95 grants had been distributed via more than 30 congregations. A new goal has been set to raise \$400,000.



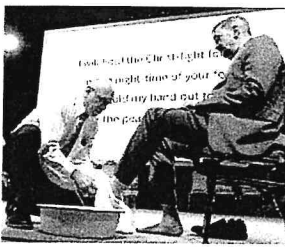
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2026 Church of the Brethren
Annual Conference
Fort Wayne, Ind.

WrapUp



Don Fitzkee, 2026 moderator, washes the feet of Dennis Beckner, 2027 moderator (at left). The dove of peace is brought into worship (at right). Photos: Glenn Riegel



Elections and appointments

Annual Conference moderator-elect: Amy Gall Ritchie of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind.

Program & Arrangements Committee: Natasha Beaumont, Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren, Lebanon, Pa.

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee: Chad Whitzel, Easton (Md.) Church of the Brethren

Mission & Ministry Board, Area 3: Terri Welch Luzynski, Montezuma Church of the Brethren, Dayton, Va.; **Area 5:** Gretchen Zience, Seattle (Wash.) Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren; **at large (affirmed):** Adelia A. Lucatorio, Good Samaritan Church of the Brethren, Pa.

Bethany Seminary trustees, affirmed: Leslie Bolser, Richmond, Ind.; Drew Hart, Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren; Keri Ladouceur, Raleigh, N.C.; Steve Longenecker, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren; Dominick Peruso, Huntingdon, Pa.; Jeff Sheridan, Richmond, Ind.; Ben Walters, Cincinnati (Ohio) Church of the Brethren

Eder Financial board, affirmed: Kevin Boyer, Plymouth (Ind.) Church of the Brethren and Etna Green Church of Christ; Eunice Culp, West Goshen, Ind.; Randy Yoder, Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

On Earth Peace board, affirmed: Susuyu Lassa, Troy, N.Y.; Anesu Makufa, Leeds, the United Kingdom; Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred, Spruce Creek, Pa.

Resolutions on weapons transfers, 'Walking Together' with immigrants headline agenda

Two resolutions—"Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting our Neighbors" and "Resolution on Weapons Transfer"—headed up the Conference agenda. Also on the agenda were elections, an Eder Financial report on its transition of services, and adjustments to ministerial leadership polity, among other business.

Weapons transfers: The delegates adopted the "Resolution on Weapons Transfer" with a solid majority vote.

The paper cites Matthew 5:44b-45, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. . .," calling the church to "examine and respond to the impacts of the arms industry." Reaffirming the Church of the Brethren commitment to peace "as God's will and the call of Christ" it states "opposition to the US manufacturing and sale of weapons and urges the US government to halt the sale

of arms to other countries."

One section addresses the global impact of the US arms trade, noting that "the United States is currently the world's largest exporter of weapons." Another addresses the Church of the Brethren's historic opposition to war and the defense industry, noting stated opposition to particular types of weaponry including nuclear weapons and drones.

A closing section offers recommendations for action ranging from educating about the US arms trade and the biblical call to peacemaking, to divesting from the arms industry, to public advocacy.

The resolution was adopted by the Mission and Ministry Board in March 2025, but because of the heavy business agenda of the 2025 Annual Conference it was held over to 2026.

'Walking Together': The Mission and Ministry Board brought this resolution, which was adopted with a very strong majority.

It reiterates that "care for immigrants and refugees is an essential part of the Christian and Church of the Brethren ethic of service and peacemaking" and cites biblical foundations and Annual Conference statements. Undergirding statements show the denomination's long history of caring for immigrants and refugees and involvement with civil disobedience.

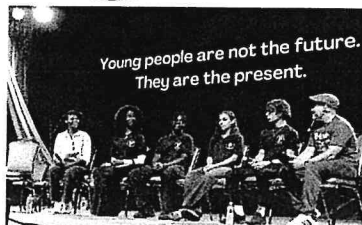
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Photos by Donna Parcell & Lauren Flora





2026 Church of the Brethren
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A keynote presentation (far left) featured Angelo Mante and youth from Alive Community Outreach. The preachers (from left): moderator Don Fitzkee, Beth Jarrett, James Washington, Becky Zapata, Caleb Kragt. Photos: Glenn Riegel & Keith Hollenberg

(continued from page 1)

Noting that “Church of the Brethren history and traditions include radical discipleship, conscientious objection, and participation in civil disobedience,” the resolution indicates that in addition to serving the needs of immigrants and refugees, and doing advocacy on their behalf, more may be needed.

The resolution states, “In cases where government policies are unjust or conflict with biblical teachings, the Church of the Brethren has supported individuals to follow their conscience and in some cases, has encouraged open, nonviolent civil disobedience to such laws.”

A list of calls to action is included for individuals, congregations, districts, and the denomination. In addition, a landing page of resources to help individuals, small groups, and congregations study the resolution and concerns surrounding it is at the webpage www.brethren.org/walking-together.

Eder Financial transition: Eder Financial presented the decision and the process for moving employee retirement and organizational investing services to Everence Financial.

The move will take some months but will leave Eder with only ancillary insurance services and benevolence programs. Most of the Eder staff will lose their jobs. But because Everence is a much larger organization, pensions and investments will be well cared for, the delegates were

assured. When the Eder board and leadership realized that the demographics of the church made long-term operations precarious, they began looking for new partners and Everence was a good fit.

Everence, previously named Mennonite Mutual Aid, has grown to serve more than 84,000 clients from many historic peace church denominations and others, and is no longer an agency of the Mennonite Church. For years, the Church of the Brethren Pastor’s Housing Fund has been administered by Praxis, a part of Everence. Consistent with shared Anabaptist roots, Everence follows similar investing values as Eder.

The transition should be completed by April 2027. The Eder board has stated its intention to bring a plan for Eder to continue as an Annual Conference agency, and the Standing Committee of district delegates has named a subcommittee to help work on a new agency covenant.

The Eder staff were recognized as the Conference acknowledged that this marks the end of an era for Eder and its predecessor organizations, which have served the Church of the Brethren for 83 years.

Adjustments to ministry leadership polity: Two adjustments to a 2014 Ministry Leadership paper were approved with the two-thirds majority required for polity. One pertains to licensed and the other to commissioned ministers.

One adjustment defines licensing as a

“provisional credential.” This is important because many states require ministers to be “credentialed” to be able to perform weddings. The change also grants more flexibility for the length of licensing being extended beyond 10 years.

The second adjustment simplifies the process for a commissioned minister to seek ordination. In Church of the Brethren polity, a commissioned minister is credentialed to serve in a particular congregation or geographical location. An ordained minister may serve any church across the denomination.

Review and Evaluation Committee: The Church of the Brethren has undertaken a periodic review every decade to evaluate the denomination’s organizational structures and procedures, with a committee assigned to bring recommendations to Annual Conference for possible changes. This decade’s Review and Evaluation Committee, elected in 2025, presented its first interim report.

The committee is seeking feedback from various groups in the church. Districts may contact the committee to set up meetings. Individuals may email reviewandevaluation@brethren.org.

For more: www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2026. The Press Team: Jan Fischer Bachman, Lauren Flora, Keith Hollenberg, Daniel Murrell II, Russ Otto, Donna Parcell, Frank Ramirez, Alane Riegel, Glenn Riegel, Frances Townsend, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford editor.

By the numbers

1,675 people registered including 389 delegates and 1,133 nondelegates onsite plus 153 virtual attendees

1 fellowship was welcomed:

• Iglesia Cristiana Elohim in Las Vegas, Nev., Pacific Southwest District

1 new church project was welcomed:

• The Sanctuary in rural Indiana, Northern Indiana District

\$54,458.29 total offerings:

• **\$13,605.63** for the **Witness to the Host City** to benefit Alive Community Outreach, with an additional **4 pallets** of material goods donated

• **\$24,334.64** for **Annual Conference** including \$14,268.05 in support of Annual Conference operations and \$10,066.59 for children and youth programming

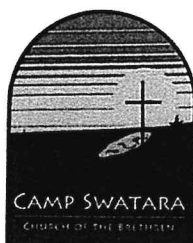
• **\$16,518.02** for the **Core Ministries of the**

Church of the Brethren including \$9,409.70 received in an offering focused on Global Mission and \$7,108.32 in an offering focused on Discipleship and Leadership Formation

\$14,759 raised by the Silent Auction to undergird the operating budget of Annual Conference

110 units collected by the Blood Drive

4.2 percent increase in cost of living adjustment to minimum cash salary table for pastors



CAMP SWATARA NEWS

The 2026 camping season is coming to a close but there is still time to have some fun! Camp sites can be booked in the Family Campground 11 months prior to your stay. Visit the camp website to reserve your site today!

Upcoming Activities at Camp:

- Sept 4th-5th Labor Day Auction
Labor Day Auction benefits the family campground. We accept donations of new, gently used or handmade items.
- Oct 10th at 11am RC Show
Join us for an action-packed day of remote control planes, cars, and boats!
- Oct 24th 2-4pm Fall Festival
Come enjoy pumpkin painting, Hot Apple Cider and more!
- Oct 30-Nov 1st Family Camp Closing Weekend
Join us to close the campground for the season! We will be landscaping and cleaning to prepare the grounds for winter. All ages are welcome to join. Volunteers are welcome to camp for free for the weekend. We provide coffee/snacks and lunch on Saturday. See the camp website to make your reservation, email familycamp@campswatara.org or call (717)933-5244.
- **Visit** www.campswatara.org **for additional activities.**



Lebanon Valley Expo • Friday & Saturday, September 25 & 26, 2026

Family Order Form

Created: 10/30/2025 9:30:31 AM

Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total	Product	%	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25.00	6%		\$	Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$	IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$	Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$	J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$	Chewy \$25.00	5%		\$	JCPenney \$100.00	7%		\$
Amazon \$100.00	1.5%		\$	Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$	JCPenney \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon \$25.00	1.5%		\$	Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	10%		\$	Kohl's \$25.00	7%		\$
Amazon \$50.00	1.5%		\$	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	9%		\$	L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$	Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	9%		\$	Lands' End \$100.00	14%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$	Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$	Lands' End \$25.00	14%		\$
Apple Store/Apple.com \$25.00	5%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$	Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Applebee's® \$25.00	8%		\$	Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$	LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's® \$50.00	8%		\$	CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	7%		\$	Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$	Dairy Queen \$10.00	6.5%		\$	Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Auntie Anne's \$10.00	7%		\$	Dairy Queen \$25.00	6.5%		\$	Marshalls \$25.00	6%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	7%		\$	Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$	McDonald's \$10.00	3%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$	Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$	McDonald's \$25.00	3%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$	Disney \$100.00	3%		\$	Moe's Southwest Grill \$10.00	7%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$	Disney \$25.00	3%		\$	Moe's Southwest Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$	Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$	Nike \$25.00	11%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$	Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$	Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$	Dunkin' \$10.00	3.5%		\$	Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
Best Western Hotels & Resorts \$100.00	10%		\$	Dunkin' \$25.00	3.5%		\$	Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Best Western Hotels & Resorts \$25.00	10%		\$	Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$	Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$	Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$	Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$25.00	10%		\$	Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$	Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$	Firehouse Subs \$25.00	6%		\$	PetSmart \$25.00	6%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$	GameStop \$25.00	5%		\$	Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$	Gap \$25.00	14%		\$	Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$	Giant Food \$100.00	3.5%		\$	Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	7%		\$	Giant Food \$25.00	3.5%		\$	Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$25.00	7%		\$	Giant Food \$50.00	3.5%		\$	Regal \$25.00	8%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	9%		\$	Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$	Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$	Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$	Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$
				HomeGoods \$25.00	6%		\$	Sheetz \$25.00	3%		\$
								Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: **Myerstown Church of the Brethren**

Total Due All Columns: \$

Family Order Form

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Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total
Starbucks \$10.00	4.5%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	4.5%		\$
Starbucks \$5.00	4.5%		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	6%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$10.00	6%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	6%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Target \$10.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$
The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
ULTA \$25.00	7%		\$
Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Vera Bradley \$50.00	7%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$100.00	1.25%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$25.00	1.25%		\$
Visa Gift Card - No Activation Fee \$50.00	1.25%		\$
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: **Myerstown Church of the Brethren**

Total Due All Columns:

\$